

**Ron McDaniel  
Mayor  
Town of Montville  
Public Hearing Testimony  
Planning & Development Committee  
February 1, 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of bills to address concerns regarding unfunded mandates.

Unfunded state mandates impose an unfair fiscal burden on towns, particularly given the difficult budget year we are facing. State aid to municipalities has been flat funded for more than a decade. At the same time, costs associated with providing critical education, public safety and other critical local services are escalating.

To address these concerns, I support the following bills that will require any new unfunded mandate to be adopted by a 2/3 vote of the General Assembly: **HB-5097, HB-5099, HB-5101, HB-5172, HB-5241, HB-5273, HB-5274, HB-5438, HB-5439, HB-5528, HB-5529, and SB-223.**

**These bills will ensure that the costs associated with a proposed mandate are thoroughly vetted by lawmakers and weighed against the intended benefits.**

**I also support HB-5295 AN ACT CONCERNING THE POSSESSIONS OF EVICTED TENANTS**, which eliminates the requirement that towns store the belongings that an evicted tenant has left behind even though the town is not a party to the transaction. In addition to storage costs, towns have to inventory items and maintain records. It is my understanding that the vast majority of states have not shifted the burden for storing such possession on municipalities.

**SB-143, HB-5530, and HB-5532**, which will allow towns to publish legal notices on their website rather than in print newspapers also makes a lot of sense and will result in savings to towns. These measures recognize that most people look to the Internet to access information easily and efficiently.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Again, given the difficulties towns are facing in providing critical services to residents without steep increases in property taxes, mandate relief must be acted on this year.